

THE FULL COUNT ACT OF 2018

REPRESENTATIVE ROB BISHOP

BACKGROUND

- Census results are used in decision-making at all levels of government (including the apportionment of congressional districts, the construction of schools, roads, the appropriation of funds for health and educational services for Americans, and more)
- Americans living abroad are only included in the decennial census if they work for the federal government
- According to a 2016 State Department estimate, nearly 9 million Americans live overseas.¹
- State likes Utah with high numbers of private residents living overseas may receive insufficient funding for federal programs and underrepresentation in Congress
- In 2000, Utah failed to qualify for a fourth congressional seat by a mere 856 people. Over 11,000 Utahns serving two-year ecclesiastical missions at the time were omitted from the census

KEY COMPONENTS OF THE FULL COUNT ACT

- Effective beginning in the 2030 census, the U.S. Census Bureau shall take appropriate measures to ensure that all Americans residing abroad during the decennial census are fully and accurately accurate
- Ensures that Americans counted abroad are properly attributed to their states and local units of government to ensure accurate the accurate apportionment of representation and appropriation of federal funds
- Tasks the Census Bureau with doing at least one of the following to ensure accuracy
 - Accept the administrative records from organizations that have Americans living, working, or serving abroad, much like the Department of Defense currently does with the U.S. Census Bureau. This cuts costs.
 - Cooperate with other government agencies with databases of Americans abroad to avoid duplicative work
 - Work to create a system under which Americans abroad may vote at a U.S. embassy

¹ "Consular Affairs by the Numbers." June 2016. Accessed October 2017.

https://web.archive.org/web/20160616233331/https://travel.state.gov/content/dam/travel/CA_By_the_Numbers.pdf